(b) whether there is any need to reivew this scheme; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to reform such scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) The basis of formulation of JRY-Innovative scheme is to benefit special groups of rural poor people or areas which are getting by-passed by the ongoing Rural Development Programmes.

(b) to (c) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana was reviewed and the programme was streamlined and restructured from 1.1.96. The sub-schemes of JRY i.e. IAY and MWS were made independent schemes. Intensified JRY was discontinued and merged with EAS. It was decided to continue Innovative JRY with 5% earmarking of the total outlay of JRY or Rs. 75.00 crores whichever is less during the 8th Five Year Plan.

Delicencing of specified food sectors

176. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to delicence some specified food sectors has been under Government's consideration;

(b) whether the Ministry has examined various aspects of those proposals; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY): (a) to (c) Action has already been initiated for repealing the Rice Milling Industry (Regulation) Act, 1958 and Rules thereunder. Under the said Act, licence is required for carrying out rice milling operations. The concerned State Governments are empowered to issue licences under this Act.

Losses of SEBs

177. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the accumulated losses of various State Electricity Boards;

(b) the reasons for incurring losses by these SEBs;

(c) whether certain State Governments have revised the power tariffs during 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) how far this is going to improve the financial performance of SEBs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) The cumulative losses of the SEBs at the end of March, 1995 were Rs. 514.83 crores after taking into account RE subsidy as provided in the accounts.

(b) The reasons for the losses of the SEBs, inter-alia, inlcude unremunerative tariff including low agricultural and domestic tariff, non-conversion of loans into equity, high T&D losses, low level of Plant Load Factor (PLF), High fuel consumption in Thermal Power Stations (TPSs), etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The States of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Orissa, Nagaland, Haryana, Maharashtra, Sikkim and Ahmedabad Electric Company have revised the tariff during 1995-96 and 1996-97.

(e) Against the average cost of supply of power of 156.66 paise/kwh, during 1994-95, the average realisation was only 134.36 paise/kwh, thus leaving a gap of 22.30 paise/kwh. Financial performance of the State Electricity Boards would improve to the extent the realisation is increased as a result of power tariff revision.

Rural Water Supply Scheme for SC areas in West Godavari District

178. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to finance and delivery system for rural water supply scheme for scheduled caste areas under